

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George B. Teasdale, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company...

Net total sales, \$17,097. Daily average, \$20,682. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of August, A. D. 1904.

The Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben still hold the inner forts. Just while we think of it, could octogenarian Davis be a "running mate"?

Perhaps Judge Parker will consent to speak after he has learned to talk without saying anything. The drop in wheat and the fall of Port Arthur coming together might shake things up quite considerable.

Why have the taxes of Omaha been increased 50 per cent in 1904 over 1903? Ask the late Douglas delegation to the legislature.

Tom Blackburn is very modest. He does not want to go to congress himself—he only wants to send a substitute of his own naming.

That waterlogged statesman is trying to draw a herring across his track, and by some sleight-of-hand slip into a permanent high salaried position.

At any rate, the czar's disarmament plan will be easier for Russia to carry out when the war ends, as the naval force will be practically eliminated.

Chinese refugees at Che Foo are certainly qualified to enter the lists against Baron Munchausen, and are rapidly approaching the class of Shanghai newspaper correspondents.

Admiral Stirling has received no instructions from Washington, but reports from Shanghai would indicate that he is ready to execute orders as soon as they may be communicated to him.

The republicans of the Second congressional district should put on their thinking caps. If they want to elect a republican congressman they should nominate a man who can be elected.

Congressman Hitchcock is outspoken for Gurley. Nobody will blame him for selecting his own competitor in the congressional race. He knows who would be easiest for him to beat.

Russia is not nearly as anxious to maintain Chinese neutrality in Mongolia, from which it secures horses and food for its army, as it is in Chinese ports where it attracts only Japanese shells.

If the contractors persist in blocking public improvements the city will be compelled to construct its public improvements by day labor through its own officers and dispend with all contractors.

The greatest objection in democratic circles to Candidate Davis' reference to the cost of Buchanan's administration is the inference that he thinks national campaigns should cost no more today than then.

The republicans of Omaha and South Omaha want to be represented in the next congress without the aid and consent of the rotund statesman from Council Bluffs who dabbles in Nebraska politics as a pastime.

The officer who commanded the torpedo boat which sunk the Hispania may have to pledge his decoration to pay damages awarded the owners, as a naval board of inquiry has decided the act was unwarranted.

Talk about the irony of fate! Right on, Arizona's drought-stricken plains a flood has sped up the trains of every railroad operating in the territory, and this just when the United States is spending \$1,000,000 there on an irrigation plant.

An ordinance to reduce the telephone rates will be introduced in the city council, but that does not mean that the reduction will take effect immediately, unless the telephone company prefers to cut rates rather than have competition.

AN EXPLANATION DEMANDED. In his speech of acceptance Judge Parker said in regard to the Philippines that while we are not at liberty to disregard the responsibility that came to us in the possession of the islands through the accident of war...

To the so-called anti-imperialists this is not altogether satisfactory. It does not seem to them to accord with the democratic national platform, which calls for an unequivocal promise of independence to the Filipinos.

It is a matter of notoriety that John D. Howe and W. S. Poppleton, both very able lawyers, have at all times been opposed to the extension of the water works franchise or the extension of the time to purchase the works by the city.

Omaha water rates are doubtless excessive, but they were just as excessive last year as they are this year, and just as excessive the year before last as they were last year.

Howell's contention that the contract with the water company does not expressly prohibit the city from reducing water rates below the figures embodied in the contract is fallacious.

The figures given by the democratic candidate for vice president in regard to the cost of government have not commanded so much attention as he probably expected they would.

In 1890 the census gave the population of the United States as a little over 31,000,000. The population according to the census of 1890 was over 76,000,000, and must now be not less than 80,000,000.

The necessities and responsibilities of the government have grown during the past forty-four years even more rapidly than the population of the country, though not more rapidly than its wealth.

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A table just prepared by the bureau of construction of the Navy department shows that there are thirty-six new war vessels completed or under construction.

The increase in the naval power of the United States in the near future gives importance to the question of the personnel and this is receiving careful attention from the department officials.

put into effect, but it is feared that the new restrictions in force recently ordered will operate to the disadvantage of the service in curtailing the enlisted force.

According to Howell, the number of fire hydrants in Omaha is 1,487, which cost the city \$92,800 yearly in rentals, while Minneapolis boasts 3,412 hydrants, which cost the city—NOTHING.

These facts are not cited by The Bee to justify the excessive hydrant rental charged or the excessive rates to private consumers in Omaha under a contract made twenty years ago.

It is to be hoped that when the democratic editors of the country assemble at New York upon the call of the national committee no attempt will be made to have them recant the doctrines preached by them during the last eight years.

Having captured the "chair fort" at Port Arthur, it may be that the Japanese will find it convenient to sit down before the city until the evils generally found in a besieged city come to their aid.

Coal miners in the Pittsburgh (Kan.) district have voted to accept a reduction in wages. A further increase in freight rates on coal to Omaha may be expected shortly.

Idaho democrats are refusing the party nominations on the state ticket, and it looks as if the Dubois combine had slipped a cog.

One Nebraska politician has been nominated for the office and is threatened with a fourth. He should combine and call himself the Nebraska state ticket.

A census bulletin shows that the lawyers are increasing more rapidly than the doctors. This might indicate that as a nation we are growing healthier and more quarrelsome.

Judge Parker is going to make some campaign speeches in the west. We doubt, however, if he will advise the voters of Nebraska to split on the electoral ticket in order to assure the election of W. J. Bryan to the senate.

War is a stern business and compels the sacrifice of men as if they were dollars, and Japan is growing reckless with her sons. She is reaching after new complications and at this rate she will not have the men left to get her safely out of them.

The democratic argument in this campaign is indeed exactly as Mr. Watson describes it: That the republicans have been right and the democrats wrong, and therefore, because the democrats now confess this they should be given power in the nation.

RIOT MUST END. A writer in the Chicago Record-Herald makes a strong plea for compulsory arbitration as the best means of putting an end to the riot and turmoil which follow in the wake of strikes.

Minor Seases and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. Curious questions are frequently fired at the United States internal revenue office concerning the sale of tobacco in its various forms.

Secretary of the Navy Morton, although he has possessed the navy portfolio only a short time, has already achieved something of a reputation in Washington as a punner.

A correspondent of the Brooklyn Eagle reports that Assistant Secretary of the Navy Darling has decided to spend a portion of the contingent fund of his department in the purchase of gold watches, earrings and medals.

At the close of the maneuvers at Fort Riley last year a Kansas farmer sent a letter to the War department for \$2.50 for "lost time."

The director of the United States mint has issued a circular giving a variety of information about the value and the medals made by the government since the institution of the mint.

There are certain markings on every United States coin that enable the place of its coinage to be located. Those struck at the Philadelphia mint have no mint mark, but those struck at all other mints are distinguished by a small letter on the reverse near the bottom.

It is passing strange that Russians could be satisfied with such a state of things. A contented mind is a continual feast. But those observers of the Russian contentment who are situated in the American classics will be irresistibly reminded of the fighting editor's account of his own victory.

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PHILADELPHIA. The feature of the Davis notification was the puerile and silly speech of John Sharp Williams. The acceptance of Mr. Davis may be quickly dismissed. It was decorous and respectable, but there was nothing notable in it.

It is a legitimate weapon of political discussion. Rightly handled it may be not only artistic in form, but effective in results. But clumsily employed, inappetently directed and wearisomely stretched out, it loses its force and recoils on the author.

Had Mr. Williams made a speech of reasonable length, and put in a fine spice of sarcasm aimed at the vulnerable points of his opponents or of the president, he would have given a zestful flavor to a keen attack which would have been relished even by his adversaries.

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THE CAMPAIGN MATHEMATICIAN. He sits alone in his padded cell with a mad gleam in his eye. A pencil twitches in his nervous hand and he casts great sums on a littered sheet of paper.